



City of Seattle

2006 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

FINAL REPORT

May 10, 2006

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

SESSION PRIORITIES - 2006

Transportation

The City of Seattle is committed to maintaining and improving the existing transportation system, investing in a broad range of transportation modes and programs to increase mobility for people and freight. We continue to advocate for critical additional transportation funding, including flexible user-fees, and for a balanced transportation system. Specifically, we support:

- Providing municipalities the ability to increase transportation funding through local revenue options in order to meet local transportation needs.

ESHB 2871 includes a change to the transportation benefit district (TBD) statute to allow King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties to ask the voters for revenue to be used for local transportation needs. Revenue options include a sales tax up to 0.2%, a vehicle license fee up to \$100, tolling or transportation impact fees. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 29.

- Legislation to dissolve the Seattle Popular Monorail Authority and identify an authority to administer the collection and distribution of revenue and assets to pay off existing debts and protect the City's interests and address the City's concerns.

SB 6733 would have set up a five member caretaker board to oversee the dissolution of the Monorail. **SB 6872** would maintain the SMP Board and allow future taxes for high capacity transit west of I-5. **SB 6786** gave the dissolution authority to the City Council. None of these bills passed out of the Senate.

- Amending existing regional transportation enabling legislation to give city elected officials a voting role on the planning committee and governing board, and to allow spending on transit so that an overall funding package, including MVET, can support transit as well as roads.

ESHB 2871 requires a 2007 regional ballot to include both the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) and Sound Transit. There will be two separate votes but both must pass to enact either revenue package. The RTID is also allowed to use funding for transit operations for mitigation during project construction. The limitations around the use of the motor vehicle excise tax (MVET) have been removed so any RTID project can use MVET. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 29.

- Legislation that considers a broader reorganization of regional transportation governance in the Central Puget Sound region. The governance model would incorporate any new regional transportation agency and potentially other regional agencies and could integrate key functions, including transit and transportation planning and implementation, and the authority to raise the necessary revenue.

ESHB 2871 establishes a regional transportation commission made up of nine commissioners appointed by the governor. The commission must develop a proposal(s) for a new regional transportation governing entity and a comprehensive regional funding plan. The proposals for the governing entity and funding plan must be made public by November 15, 2006 and adopted and submitted to the legislature by January 1, 2007. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 29.

- Reauthorization of and expanded funding for Commute Trip Reduction and Transportation Demand Management programs.

ESSB 6566 modifies the Commute Trip Reduction program (CTR), as proposed by the CTR Task Force, to focus on urban growth areas with congested highways. An additional \$4.65 million was allocated to enhance the program. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 29. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Housing

The City of Seattle supports efforts to increase the amount of housing, especially affordable housing, as well as levels of home ownership. We support continued work to decrease homelessness throughout Washington State. We support efforts to create incentives and partnerships with businesses and non-profits to encourage the development of new housing units. Specifically, we support:

- Increasing the Homeless Families Services Fund by \$5 million with a long-term goal of \$15 million.

The supplemental capital budget and **HB 2418** added \$4 million to the Homeless Families Services Fund. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 30. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

- At a minimum, maintaining the level of funding in the Housing Trust Fund.

An additional \$6.8 million was approved in the supplemental capital budget and **HB 2418** to help with the Housing Trust Fund backlog. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 30. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

- Adding tools, such as Tax Increment Financing and additional real estate excise tax (REET) authority, to assist with affordable housing development and providing local jurisdictions greater flexibility to use local resources for housing and human services.

E2SHB 2418 increases the availability of affordable housing. This bill allowed for up to \$25 million of the state portion of the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) to be used for Housing Trust Fund programs. The final budget contained \$21 million including \$6.8 million for the Housing Trust Fund and \$4 million for the Homeless Families Services Fund. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 30. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

ESHB 2984 authorizes cities, towns and counties to implement affordable housing incentive programs. This allows jurisdictions to provide incentives to developers, such as density bonuses, fee waivers and expedited permitting to developers in return for their building affordable housing. Seattle worked with the Low-Income Housing Alliance, Association of Washington Cities and developers on this bill. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 20. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

E2SHB 2673 implements a new statewide pilot project using a variation of tax increment financing. Three specific projects were selected and additional projects may be authorized by the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB). The Governor signed this bill into law on March 23. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

- Increasing funding for services to prevent people from becoming homeless, particularly comprehensive mental health services and discharge planning from institutions.

The supplemental operating budget included an additional \$34 million for mental health services statewide. **Seattle supported this funding.**

Education

The City of Seattle supports efforts at the state level to improve academic achievement in grades K-12. We believe the state should focus on improving early learning education and opportunities for children from birth to kindergarten. We also support state-initiated efforts, such as Washington Learns, which aim to improve educational accountability and financing. Specifically, we support:

- Revisions to the basic education funding formula to better support the standards-based reforms adopted by the legislature in the Education Reform Act of 1993, and to adequately fund the cost of helping students meet the standards.
- Allow school districts greater authority and flexibility in raising local funds for education.

E3SHB 1484 would allow a county wide voter approved property tax to be used for collectively bargained cost-of-living supplements for school employees. The revenue would be distributed to school districts based on the number of full-time equivalent employees in each school district. This bill did not pass out of the Senate.

- Funding to school districts for remediation for students not likely to pass the 10th grade WASL.

The supplemental operating budget included \$28.5 million for student remediation assistance including \$20.2 million is to serve the class of 2008 and \$4.1 million to help the class of 2007. **Seattle supported this funding.**

- Full funding for the cost of special education to school districts.

- Legislation allowing a simple majority to approve school district levies and bonds.

HJR 4205 providing for a public vote on a constitutional amendment to allow school levies to pass with a simple voting majority did not pass out of the Senate. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

- Funding to increase access to higher education and job training, and to retain and attract high quality educators.
- Approval of the University of Washington's requests for technology funding which provides critical research and promotes economic development in our region and state including:
 - Funding for Phase II of the South Lake Union life sciences campus, and
 - Funding to develop a new nanotechnology and a new information technology program.

The supplemental operating budget included \$2.4 million for the University of Washington to help with phase II of the South Lake Union life sciences campus. **Seattle supported this funding.**

Approved Legislation

2SHB 2964 creates the new Department of Early Learning to implement state early learning policy and to coordinate, consolidate, and integrate child care and early learning programs in order to administer programs and funding as efficiently as possible. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 28 and it becomes effective July 1. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

SSB 6618 requires a study to explore options for students to demonstrate that they have met learning standards. It also requires a review and statistical analysis of those that do not meet the WASL standards to try to identify similar characteristics and possible barriers to meeting the standards. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 30.

Civil Rights

We support efforts to ensure that all people are provided equal rights and protection under Washington State law, including expansion of discrimination laws to include sexual orientation.

We support the repeal of Initiative 200. Alternatively, we support giving local jurisdictions the authority and choice on whether to apply I-200.

ESHB 2661 which expands the jurisdiction of the human rights commission to include sexual orientation was signed into law on January 31 and becomes effective on June 7, 2006. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

SESSION OBJECTIVES - 2006

Administrative Warrants

We support legislation to allow courts to issue civil warrants for conducting housing, property and health inspections in order to enforce the City's codes. We oppose efforts to diminish current authority to access property for public safety and other business purposes.

There was no legislation introduced relating to this issue.

B&O Taxes

We support maintaining the municipal B&O tax system, including the ability to collect the revenues locally and implement local definitions. We also support eliminating apportionment to non-taxing jurisdictions and legislative efforts to fix the financial hole for municipalities caused in 2003 by HB 2030.

Approved Legislation

SHB 2033 exempts printers and publishers from the apportionment provisions that go into effect in 2008. Instead the gross income will be allocated to the principal place in the state from which the business is directed or managed. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 30 and it becomes effective January 1, 2008.

Capital Budget

We support allocation of \$1 million in state funding to help acquire the area known as Capehart housing in Discovery Park. We also support allocation of \$2 million in state capital funding for Phase I of the Seattle Aquarium restoration and remodel.

ESSB 6384, the supplemental capital budget, included \$2 million for Phase I of the Seattle Aquarium restoration and remodel. **Seattle supported this funding.**

The capital budget did not include any additional funding for Discovery Park.

Energy Portfolio Standard

We are committed to working with the Legislature, non-City of Seattle utilities and stakeholders to develop a statewide framework to increase renewable energy resources and energy efficiency.

HB 2351 encourages the construction and development of renewable energy to meet increasing demands for affordable and reliable electricity. This bill did not pass out of the House.

Environmental Health

We support measures to remove hazardous material from the waste stream. Specifically, we support the removal of mercury switches from junk vehicles before the vehicles are destroyed, and the creation of a recovery program for these devices. We also support the ban of the manufacturing and sale of products containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs). We support efforts to address climate change in our region and state. We support initiatives to encourage the use of cleaner alternative fuels and high efficiency vehicles.

Approved Legislation

SSB 6428 provides no-cost options for individuals, small governments and small businesses to recycle their computers and televisions. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 24 and it becomes effective July 1. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Legislation of Interest

SHB 1731 requiring the removal of mercury components from junk vehicles did not pass out of the House. This bill will likely be introduced again. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

2ESHB 1488 would have prohibited the sale of products that contain polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE's). The bill would require an alternative be available prior to the date the PDBE's would be banned. Some fire officials expressed concerned about not having this flame retardant available. This bill did not pass out of the Senate. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Firearm Safety and Crime Guns

We support measures to ensure firearm safety, particularly around children, and to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals. We support legislation to require trigger locks or lock boxes for guns and closing the gun show loophole.

SB 5343 regulates the sale of firearms at gun shows and events. This bill would have closed the gun show loop hole by requiring background checks for those purchasing firearms. This bill did not pass out of the Senate. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Human Services - TANF

We support adequate funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to help ensure family stability and provide the tools recipients need to move off of public assistance and into family wage jobs.

Neither **2SSB 6628** or **SHB 2970** which would preserve the WorkFirst child safety net program passed out of the house of origin. The supplemental operating budget included \$650,000 to protect children whose parents are not complying with WorkFirst requirements. The amount is less than originally proposed because the Governor will not begin sanctions until March 2007. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Streamlined Sales Tax

We support implementation of the Streamlined Sales Tax legislation with a mitigation plan to assist cities that are negatively impacted.

SSB 6594, conforming Washington's tax structure to the streamlined sales and use tax agreement, did not pass out of the House. The bill did include full mitigation to cities that will be adversely affected by the shift in the distribution of sales tax from a point of purchase system to point of delivery. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Telecommunications and Cable

Participation of local governments in state actions that impact regulation of telecommunications is critical. We oppose any state preemption of authorities historically and traditionally vested in local governments including the management of

local public rights-of-way, taxing authority, consumer protection standards and the ability to provide telecommunication services.

There was no legislation introduced relating to this issue.

Water Quality

We are committed to providing a safe, reliable, high-quality source of drinking water for our residents, and to promoting water conservation. We support measures ensuring Seattle ratepayers maintain control of their water system and prevent uses that jeopardize the quality and reliability of the system. We support legislation that will prevent Seattle ratepayers from subsidizing ground water and reclaimed water systems.

There was no legislation introduced relating to this issue.

Weights and Measures Fees

We are seeking authority to set inspection and testing fees, or an increase in the state fees, to support our weights and measures program, which provides protection to consumers and businesses from inaccurate measuring devices. We are opposed to any changes that would preempt cities from conducting a weights and measures program.

SSB 6365 will increase the annual registration fees for weighting and measuring devices. The increase will be phased in over the next two years. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 30. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

STATEMENT OF POLICY - 2006

Air Quality and Climate Protection

We believe all levels of government have the ability to implement practices and policies that provide for strong climate protection. We support maintaining and improving existing air quality levels to protect against adverse effects on humans and the environment. We continue to support efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. We support maintaining current funding for environmental programs related to clean air.

Approved Legislation

SSB 6508 develops minimum renewable fuel content requirements and fuel quality standards in an alternative fuels market. This bill requires that 2% of the total volume of diesel sold in the state be biodiesel and 2% of the total gasoline sold in the state be ethanol. The requirements start Dec. 1, 2008, or earlier if conditions are met. The bill also establishes an Advisory Committee to assist with implementing or suspending the requirements. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 30 and it becomes effective on July 1. **Seattle supported this bill.**

Civil Rights

Every person has the right to live, work, learn and play free from discrimination. We support the extension of statewide protection to all class groups recognized by the City of Seattle. We support statutory changes to provide gay and lesbian people the legal right to marry. We support practices and local control that allow for equal opportunities for all people in business, education and job opportunities.

Domestic Violence Protections

We are committed to ending domestic violence for our residents. We support legislative efforts to provide victims of domestic violence with the services, financial assistance, and other resources they need to leave abusive relationships and support their safety. We support legislation that fosters victim safety by providing victims of domestic violence with adequate notice of any efforts to modify or terminate protection orders. We support legislation that strengthens mandatory reporting requirements. Finally, we support efforts to prohibit discrimination against victims of domestic violence.

Approved Legislation

ESHB 2848 states that confidential information cannot be shared unless permission is given by the victim or there is a clear risk of danger. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 27. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

SHB 2394 requires the inclusion of financial literacy in work activity provisions. This will require that people participating in WorkFirst must have financial literacy as part of their individual responsibility plan (IRP). The purpose of the IRP is to map out a strategy for self-sufficiency. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 17 and it becomes effective January 1, 2007. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Legislation of Interest

SHB 2395 addresses the impact of domestic violence on children. This bill did not get out of Rules. This bill would have required DSHS to develop protocols on how to incorporate the impact of domestic violence in child abuse or neglect issues. Ultimately, it was agreed to not have this bill move forward. Some language raised concerns by

domestic violence advocates. Also, State Supreme Court Justice Bridge has formed a task force to address this issue. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Economic Development

We support state efforts to provide local governments with financing tools and remove needless regulatory barriers to attract and retain businesses. We also support employer incentives that promote increased job opportunities, wage progression and retention for workers. We recognize that Washington State under-funds its tourism industry and so we support efforts to provide incentives to enhance our tourism industry. Similarly, we support incentives to attract the film and music industries to Washington and Seattle.

Approved Legislation

SB 6558 forms a Washington motion picture competitiveness program to provide incentives for this industry to film in the state. The program will be funded by private contributions in exchange for state tax credits. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 27. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Elections and General Government

We support legislation providing local jurisdictions more flexibility on election issues, which includes allowing a local campaign-matching program for campaign donations in exchange for limits on campaign spending. We believe the State of Washington should pay for all elections related to state government and state offices.

We support local governance structures that allow flexibility among jurisdictions to meet requirements, such as open public meetings, in a way that reflects the organizational structure of the jurisdiction and does not interfere with public access.

Approved Legislation

ESB 6236 changes the date of the primary election to the third Tuesday in August and filing week to the first week of June. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 30 and it becomes effective January 1, 2007.

SHB 1439 relating to electronic and web based bidding was amended to include restrictions on public works bid cancellations. At the request of a number of cities and counties Governor Gregoire vetoed the public works bidding language on March 31. **Seattle supported this veto.**

SB 6411 would have allowed collective bargaining agreements between local government and an exclusive bargaining representative for up to six years. Although supportive of the local component Governor Gregoire vetoed this bill on March 29 due to conflicts with a few state employee groups that use binding interest arbitration.

ESHB 2544 authorizes project loans recommended by the public works board. Seattle has one project loan for \$5,000,000 to install storm drain and pipe to alleviate chronic flooding problems for businesses and residences in South Park. This bill went into effect on March 28. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Legislation of Interest

HB 1436 and **SB 6221** would have allowed public funded campaigns for local office. Neither bill passed out of the House. **Seattle supported these bills.**

Energy

We support continued state assistance for low-income consumers of energy and efforts to improve the state's voluntary green power program. We support the development of a long-term energy strategy that includes planning for adequate energy capacity and supply. We support efforts and incentives to increase technological advances in distributed generation. We support state policy on distributed generation that removes barriers, while recognizing the unique requirements and circumstances of Washington's electric utilities.

Approved Legislation

HB 2370 funds low-income home energy assistance. This bill was passed out of the legislature within the first days of the session. This purpose is to address the expected high costs of home heating. This bill went into effect January 12.

Seattle supported this measure.

ESHB 1010 requires public and private utilities to produce integrated resource plans (IRP). There were many changes made to this bill along the way, but in the end this was something we believe was workable for the City. The definition of renewable energy and the requirements imposed do not raise concerns. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 24.

ESHB 1020 sets up a process for the siting of electrical transmission corridors. This would allow the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council to site transmission corridors that have been designated under the Federal Energy Act as a corridor of national significance. In addition, the applicant must compensate a local government for the participation of staff during the siting process. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 24.

ESHB 2352 requires utilities accept up to .5 of their load for net metering (up from .25), it also provides for connections of up to 100kw (up from 25kw). The purpose is to make it easier for renewable connections by individuals customers. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 24.

3ESHB 2939 establishing the energy freedom program. This bill sets up a 13-member board which will allocate \$25 million for loans to be used for projects and research and development of new, renewable and bio-fuel sources. This could allow for the local production of bio-fuels and renewables. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 22. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Legislation of Interest

SHB 2349 which provides new renewable energy standards for state agencies did not pass out of the Senate. This bill would have allowed producers of anaerobic digesters to request state agencies purchase the power produced from their digester. It then requires the utility providing power to that agency to purchase power from that anaerobic digester. There were a number of issues related to what the utility could charge for in the delivery of that energy. **Seattle had concerns about this bill.**

HB 2609 which would have significantly changed the way in which the utility tax is computed did not pass out of the House. This could have had a negative impact on the City. **Seattle opposed this bill.**

SB 6209 would modify utility charge provisions including imposing new requirements, such as getting signatures from each resident of a home prior to turning on municipal gas, water or electricity. This bill did not pass out of the Senate. **Seattle had concerns about this legislation.**

Growth Management, Land Use and Annexation

We support the Growth Management Act (GMA) as the primary means of planning for growth. We support the further integration and streamlining of state land use and related statutes while preserving environmental protections. We support better integration of land use and transportation. We support minimum urban densities that take into consideration the circumstances of cities and address the regional need to meet longer-term growth.

We support efforts to protect and provide local government tools to implement “growth pays for growth” policies. We support state funding to assist jurisdictions in meeting the planning requirements and infrastructure needs of the Growth Management Act and the Shoreline Management Act. In addition, we support funding to help support the infrastructure and operating needs of cities annexing unincorporated areas.

Legislation of Interest

SHB 2217 would have required jurisdictions that "down zoned" to recapture the lost housing elsewhere. Concerns were raised about this because even if a jurisdiction did not "down zone" but "rezoned" one might argue there would be a loss of housing. This bill was viewed as very prescriptive and could have given authority to the county to require certain densities in some cities. This bill did not pass out of the House. **Seattle opposed this legislation.**

HB 2323 required the study of the prospect of increasing affordable rental housing through accessory dwelling units (ADUs). This bill originally was very prescriptive in how local governments had to zone for ADUs. This bill did not pass out of the House.

HB 2324 provided for incentives to encourage affordable housing. This bill provided for specific requirements related to density bonuses. This bill did not pass out of the House.

SHB 2325 and **SB 6589** encouraged the development of affordable housing. These bills had specific requirements for how local governments zoned for "odd shaped" lots. Both the Association of Washington Cities and the Washington Association of Counties expressed concerns over these bills as being too prescriptive. Neither bill passed out of the Senate.

HB 2667 would have allowed the continuation of the county roads levy for up to ten years in areas annexed by cities provided an interlocal agreement and other conditions are met. This bill did not pass out of the House. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

SHB 2815 and **SSB 6569** attempted to clarify the best available science requirements to protect critical areas. This was part of the Governor's package to address GMA issues. While some parts of the bill were acceptable, others raised concerns about whether this could have further confused planning for critical areas. Neither bill passed out of the Senate.

SHB 3017 and **SSB 6701** reaffirming existing Washington State eminent domain laws was introduced to address a US Supreme Court decision which gives governments authority to condemn property for economic development purposes. Washington State laws are much different than those in the Court decision, and many believe it is clear that authority does not exist under our constitution. Neither bill passed out of the house of origin.

SB 6388 limits the power of eminent domain. Similar to the bills above, this was to ensure the US Supreme Court decision would not provide new authority for government to condemn property for economic development. This bill did not pass out of the Senate.

Hazardous and Solid Waste

We support cleaning up hazardous waste sites through the maintenance of the Local Toxics Control Account, as well as additional state assistance to local governments for the handling, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous materials. We support the establishment of a tire-recycling fee for programs that properly dispose of tires. We support efforts to establish product stewardship programs for consumer electronic equipment.

We support development of common standards for recycled products, funding for recycling facilities and legislative initiatives to increase waste reduction and recycling. This includes efforts related to composting and supporting state and local government in finding adequate and stable markets for recyclable and recycled products.

See Environmental Health in Session Objectives section.

Health Care

We support efforts to ensure that all persons, especially children, have accessible and affordable health care. We support efforts to maintain and enhance state funding (MVET replacement), and provide a robust and stable revenue source to deal with local public health requirements. We also believe all persons in Washington State should have access to affordable prescription drug coverage, as well as alcohol and substance abuse treatment and comprehensive mental health services on demand.

Approved Legislation

ESSB 6366 states that adequate pandemic flu preparedness and response plans should be developed and implemented by local public health jurisdictions statewide. The budget appropriated \$2 million from the general fund for this effort and another \$7 million in anticipated federal funding. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 15. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

ESB 5048 prohibits the distribution of tobacco products to the public. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 9. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Legislation of Interest

HB 2517 and **SB 6356** would have established minimum health care benefit expenditure for businesses with over 5,000 employees. Neither bill passed out of the house of origin. **Seattle supported these bills.**

Homeland Security

We support efforts to protect the public from terrorist threats, both foreign and domestic. We support legislation protecting information regarding emergency preparedness and critical infrastructure. We also support consistent laws and regulations regarding first responders that address the unique urban needs of homeland security. Finally, we support efforts to balance the need to effectively combat terrorism while protecting civil liberties and freedoms.

Housing

We support efforts to provide affordable and safe housing for all income levels, which includes direct funding and incentives for developing low- and moderate-income housing. Consistent with our regional homeless plan, we also support the development of discharge planning policies that assist people leaving institutions, including jails, prisons, hospitals, foster care, substance abuse programs and mental health facilities, to obtain stable housing.

Legislation of Interest

HB 3234 states that counties, cities and towns may not restrict faith communities from hosting homeless tent encampments and may not set a maximum duration of those encampments for less than 90 days. This bill did not pass out of the House.

HB 2650 and **HB 2649** proposed to address affordable housing efforts and programs to end homelessness. Some concerns were raised regarding the very prescriptive nature and high cost of the bills. Neither bill passed out of the House.

Human Services

We strongly support maintaining and enhancing state funding for critical programs, and preserving the human services safety net to support our vulnerable populations and maintain healthy communities. These programs have a profound impact on the quality of life for thousands of vulnerable members of our community including seniors, people with disabilities, the mentally ill and chemically dependent, refugees, immigrants and children of all ages. We support opportunities for self-sufficiency, poverty relief and upward mobility.

Approved Legislation

SHB 2376 prohibits the department of social and health services from imposing premiums on children in households with income at or below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level. This simply codifies departmental practice but is important because it would prohibit premiums being charged in the future without new legislation. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 9. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

SHB 2002 authorizes continuing foster care and support services up to age twenty-one. Those in foster care that continue their education will be allowed continued access to

services. For now this is limited to 50 youth, however the desire is to have this available to all those who pursue education. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 28. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

E2SHB 2353 allows the state to engage in collective bargaining for family child care providers. Child care workers joined SEIU, but the state must have explicit authorization to bargain with them. Next year, the legislature will be presented the bargained contract and will have an up-or-down vote on the contract. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 15. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Key Arena

The City of Seattle's position will be developed following an open and transparent decision-making process.

Legislation of Interest

HB 3233 and **SB 6849** would have given the King County Council authority to impose (or continue) a number of taxes that would be used for arts and heritage organizations in King County and to improve or build a facility for the Sonics and improve the existing Mariners' facility. The taxes include a two percent lodging tax, sales tax credit of 0.017, two percent car rental tax and a restaurant sales tax of 0.5 percent. All of these taxes are currently in place and set to expire once bonds for Safeco Field and Qwest Field are paid off. Neither bill made it out of the house of origin.

Libraries

We support the current governance structure of libraries that provides for an independent library board. We also support open access to library materials and information on paper and in electronic form.

Parks

We support funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. We also support changes to the conservation futures statute to ensure that cities are receiving an appropriate share of the revenues. We also support maintaining current funding for priority environmental programs related to open space.

Public Safety

We strive to ensure that people, especially those who are most vulnerable, including the elderly, feel safe and protected in their homes, businesses and on our streets. We support efforts to hold offenders accountable while striving to relieve the demands on the adult and juvenile justice systems through prevention and early intervention programs and increased access to alcohol, substance and mental health treatment. We support efforts to strengthen training standards for security guards. We also support measures to make it illegal statewide to possess auto theft tools. We also support additional tools, possibly including enhanced penalties such as suspended driving privileges, to help address the ongoing problem of repeat graffiti offenders.

Approved Legislation

HB 3205 deals specifically with violent sex offenders who have been conditionally released and are under 24-hour DSHS supervision. This bill allows a DSHS employee to contact law enforcement directly if the offender is violating their conditions of release

but is not committing a crime. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 28. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

ESSB 6106 requires the disclosure of specified health care information for law enforcement purposes. This bill addresses an issue homicide detectives have encountered. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 9 and it became effective immediately. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

SB 6540 relates to the processing of liquor licenses. The original bill took out the phrase "public institutions" and replaced it with "public institutions of higher education" in the Liquor Control Board's (LCB) deliberations on processing a new liquor license. We pointed out that would exclude establishments such as parks and libraries from the consideration by the LCB. The Senate bill was amended to define "public institutions" as "institutions of higher education, parks, community centers, libraries and transit centers." This phrase had never been defined for the LCB. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 30.

There were numerous sex offenders bills introduced this year. Two are of particular interest to cities. **SSB 6325** preempts local authority to preclude sex offenders from living in certain areas. This bill is related to the zoning which is currently being challenged in the courts by the cities of Issaquah and Monroe. The other bill of note is **SSB 6775** which allows a person working for any public or private facility to order Level II or III sex offenders from the premises of the facility. Also passed was legislation dealing with registration requirements and increasing penalties.

Legislation of Interest

HB 2123 requires institutions of higher education to adopt off campus code of conduct rules. The bill did not pass out of the House.

SB 6214 would require that security guards receive regular training. This bill did not pass out of the Senate. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

ESHB 1849 requires the Department of Licensing to conduct a review of annual post assignment training of security guards. Like the Senate version, originally this bill was to require training for private security guards. However, the House changed it to review how training is currently being conducted. The bill did not pass out of the Senate. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Revenue

We strongly support maintaining and enhancing local taxing and fee authority and local revenue options. These tools provide necessary flexibility for municipalities in order to fulfill federal and state mandated responsibilities and to meet the needs of our communities. We are opposed to unfunded mandates. Seattle also supports enactment of comprehensive reform of the Washington State tax system to provide revenue stability for cities and counties and a more progressive state tax structure.

Legislation of Interest

HJR 4214 would have proposed to amend the Constitution, with a vote of the people, to limit the assessments of real property values to inflation or one percent per year,

whichever is less. This bill did not move out of the House. **Seattle opposed this legislation.**

SSB 5333 would allow all taxing districts to ask voters to approve a lid lift for up to six years and removes the non-supplanting language from the existing statute. The bill did not pass out of the House. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

HB 2671 and **SB 6385** would eliminate the state's 5% mandatory assessment penalty on unpaid or underpaid state tax bills and audit assessments. Due to the link to state penalties in the model B&O tax ordinance, elimination of the 5% assessment would also apply to Seattle and any other B&O city.

Transportation

We support efforts to reduce the ongoing transportation problems throughout the city, region and state, particularly when there is a safety risk involved. We support additional steps to provide local government with additional gas tax revenue, direct project funding and competitive grants to meet their transportation infrastructure needs. We support efforts to maintain the effectiveness of HOV lanes and oppose measures that would degrade the passenger-carrying capacity of these lanes. We support program funding for Safe Routes to School, bicycle, pedestrian and transit-friendly development investments.

Legislation of Interest

HB 2821 proposed to open HOV lanes during non-peak hours and defined peak hours as 6-9 AM and 3-7 PM Monday through Friday. This bill did not pass out of the House. **Seattle opposed this legislation.**

Tribal Governments

We respect and support the unique sovereign status of tribes, understanding their treaty rights, the importance of their efforts to create a sufficient tax base, and their reliance on specific sources of revenue to operate programs for the benefit of their people.

Water Stewardship

We support the efficient use of water and environmental stewardship, including funding for salmon recovery. We support legislative efforts to address a variety of water issues, including in-stream flows, protection of municipal water rights, disputes about water rights, enhancement of water rights and implementation of watershed planning. We support improvements in water quality through effective storm water management programs that set goals that are achievable and are not cost-prohibitive. We support maintaining current funding for priority environmental programs related to water quality.

In addition, we support the expansion of the State's Trust Water rights account and amending the trust water right statute to allow transfers of unperfected rights to the State Water Trust. We support limiting the amendment to transfers of unperfected rights that are dedicated for in-stream flows or other environmental benefits.

Approved Legislation

SHB 2884 will allow the Department of Ecology with the Department of Health to update the reclaimed water rules, last updated in 1997. The Governor signed this bill into law on March 28. **Seattle supported this legislation.**